

Grace Church Visitor

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THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Edward C. Close

The above class was the outgrowth of an organization among the older men of the church known as the Laymen's League. This league had for its object the furtherance of missionary work. However, it never seemed to get very far into this field, as most of the demands made upon its resources seemed to be for the support of this church. Little by little enthusiasm waned and eventually the league ceased to exist. Then came a movement among the men in the Adult Bible Class to organize a separate class, regularly officered and on a plan to exclude outside interference with its material affairs. Profiting by the experience of the late Laymen's League, it was decided, even in the tentative organization, that there would be no more raids on its treasury to further interests of the church proper which the church itself should take care of. This determination was necessary to meet the reluctance among the men to attempt the organization of a men's class. However, on the principle of "managing its own affairs" the class was formally organized in April, 1914, and a charter secured.

The first officers were: John Ruck, President; Ernest Close, Secretary; H. E. Metzner, Treasurer. The slogan adopted was "Everlastingly at It"—and the class has endeavored to live up to this motto. Eligibility is simple—any man over twenty-five years of age who is a professed Christian may apply for membership.

The first teacher was W. F. Close, at that time superintendent of the Sunday

school, and really with his hands too full in that line to take up the additional work of teaching a class. However, as no one would serve as teacher at this time, he agreed to take the position until someone could be found. Later John Sessler was elected to the position and is now serving in that capacity to the satisfaction of the class. The interest of the members is wonderful. This is manifest in the manner in which both the membership and the attendance has increased. And socially the class has distinguished itself in many ways. The plan of holding the monthly business meetings at the homes of its members was adopted and has proven very successful. The receptions given at the church stand out prominently among the successful affairs of this kind for which Grace Church is noted. As about all of the members of the church attended the receptions given by the class, it is not necessary to go into details about them.

In a recent contest for points on attendance and members the Men's Class lost to the ladies by one point. It is now up to the men to give the ladies a banquet. This will probably be held at the church on July 17, this being the regular meeting night of the Men's Class.

Much more might be written regarding this class, but space forbids. Suffice it to say that since its organization it has been "everlastingly at it"—and always will be.

JULY 15th—A BIG DAY!—SEE PAGE 2

ATTENTION—EVERYBODY!

JULY 15TH, GIVING DAY

A unique and all-important day will be Sunday, July 15th. You are urged to come on that day and see all of Grace Church people—and give. Bring your friends and your lunch, and come to your church home for a happy day. Show that you really mean to do all that you can to support Christ's Church and advance His Kingdom.

Now why do we need a Giving Day in Grace Church? Let us mention a few things that have brought it all about, notwithstanding that Grace Church finances are in gratifying shape.

We must repair the parsonage. The roof is leaking so badly that the new wall paper is now being ruined. The cellar is in bad shape, and simply has to be fixed, and there are a lot of other things that have to be attended to. Then, too, the church building comes in for its share. There is an urgent need for some toilet facilities. These are not only needed from a humane standpoint but the law demands it. The expense for new sewer, etc., will bring the cost up to more than three hundred dollars for this improvement alone. Then it is also good business to buy the fuel for next winter at the summer price. We must have a carload of coal, and it runs into money, but it still is much cheaper than buying a few tons at a time at the long winter price.

It is figured by the Property Committee that not less than fifteen hundred dollars will meet all the above requirements, and a committee of fifteen with Mr. Baumgardner as chairman has been charged with the duty of raising this amount. At meetings held June 18th and June 25th plans were made for making Sunday, July 15th, a money-raising day, and the spirit of the church is such that it will be a success. Grace Church is in much better shape financially than it has been for some time, but we must pay the price of neglect in

the past. With every member's help we shall raise the money easily and surprise ourselves with the good that will come of it. Note well the announcement! Help!

MRS. HOY HONORED GUEST

The evening of June 7th was a memorable one for members of the Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle. The occasion was a visit to Grace Church by the beloved woman with whose name this band of young women has chosen to honor its organization, Mrs. Mary B. Hoy. An invitation was extended to all the members of the church as well as to the Ladies' Missionary Societies of the Salem and St. John's Reformed Churches to attend the lecture by Mrs. Hoy, given at 8 o'clock in the church auditorium. A large crowd greeted the speaker and thoroughly enjoyed her most interesting story of lives and customs of the people of China, where she has spent so many years of her life in the service of the Master. She impressed upon her hearers the magnitude of the field of labor in this far-off country and how this queer old empire is at last opening its doors to civilization and expressing its desire to advance to the rank of the foremost nations. Having expressed her desires for a modern communion set to be used in their church in China, the very liberal offering of the evening is to be used in the purchase of a lovely silver set and presented as a gift of the young ladies' society. Following the lecture of the evening a reception was tendered the honored guest by the Missionary Circle in the lecture rooms of the church, where all the young women of the church were also guests of the society and about thirty-five young women partook of the delicious luncheon that was served. Mrs. Hoy again gave a short but most interesting talk and needless to say every young woman in attendance could not help but be filled with the missionary spirit and a desire to do her small part in carrying out the Master's command.

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH

Grace Church as well as every other church is invited to take part in the Good Citizenship picnic in Swinney Park on July 4th. It will be a non-sectarian, non-partisan, patriotic, all-American affair, gotten up by the A. C. W.'s, the W. C. T. U.'s and other similar organizations for the double purpose of celebrating the day right and stimulating all of us to be better citizens. There will be a parade down town at ten o'clock a. m., and speeches, military drills, and fun for young and old in the Park in the afternoon and evening. O yes, don't forget the dinner. Bring a well-filled basket.

Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Weiler and Mrs. Hazzard, who have been on the sick list, are able to be out again.

Mrs. C. E. Crum entertained the Heidelberg Class on Friday, June 29th, at her home, 1433 Edgewater avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Close entertained the Men's Bible Class at their home on Tuesday evening, June 19th.

Mrs. Gooley and Miss Loretta Gooley spent a week in Huntington, Ind., recently, visiting friends and relatives.

Mrs. Frances Bloom and Miss Pearl Lawhead, of Tiffin, Ohio, were the guests of Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Boger recently.

Miss Elma Ruck was a member of the Fort Wayne High School graduating class of 1917. The Visitor extends congratulations to her.

Miss Esther Weiler is home after graduating at Heidelberg. All of her friends in Grace Church extend best wishes and congratulations.

A large number of the ladies of the church enjoyed a social afternoon on Thursday, June 28th, at the home of Mrs. Walter Close, on Elmwood avenue.

Raymond C. Close, illuminating engineer with the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago, spent a week of his vacation in the city visiting his sister and brothers.

The music by the quartet choir on Sunday, June 24th, was greatly appreciated. Mr. Abram Jones, who is singing regularly at the First Baptist Church, filled his old place as tenor, with Miss Bauer soprano, Miss Hinton alto, and Mr. Hollenbeck bass.

Earl Dinger, who was home for a few days' vacation, left on June 17th for New York City, where he will spend the summer in social settlement work. He has the same position that he filled in 1916, which demonstrates the fact that his ability in that line is recognized in New York. Are there not other young men in Grace Church who should heed the call as Earl Dinger has heeded it? We think there are.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bitner and daughter, Miss Esther, left on Tuesday, June 19th, for Kansas City and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, primarily to see Robert Bitner, who is now in the U. S. Army hospital service. Sunday, June 24th, was spent with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ferris, who live in Kansas City. Mrs. Ferris was formerly Miss Nora Miner, and was for several years before going west a very active member of Grace Church.

Grace Church should be proud of the fact that on June 17th and 24th her pulpit was filled by two of the young men of the church. Mr. Dinger, who preached Sunday morning, June 17th, has been a student at Heidelberg for the past three years. His friends expected much of him, but even they were surprised at his marked ability. He is preparing for the ministry and in choosing his work made a happy and most fortunate choice. Mr. Weiler, in leading the prayer meetings in the summer and fall of 1916 let the fact become known that his ability in that line is unusually strong. However, his two sermons preached morning and evening on June 24th were so exceptionally good that they brought forth expressions of true admiration. Mr. Weiler's friends could wish him nothing better than that preaching the gospel become his life work.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

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George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief

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HATS OFF TO THE MEN!

An organization in Grace Church that is doing a good work is the Men's Bible Class, and the showing they make is indeed most creditable. We present in this issue the story of this class, and we hope you have read it. To the credit of the church be it said that the men have a place of great importance in it. More and more is it realized that the work of the church is a full-sized man's work, needing the best that a full-grown, big-hearted, strong-bodied man has in him. The men of this class do a work that none else could do quite so well, and our admiration and respect are due them.

OPPORTUNITY PASSES

At twelve o'clock midnight on June 30th, or twelve o'clock in the morning of July 1st, whichever way you care to put it, exactly one-half of the year 1917 became part of the past. That first half of the year is gone. Yes sir, it is gone. Once you had it before you, and could call it yours. Now what can you say of it? Could you still call it yours? No sir. What was yours is gone, and you need not ask for it, nor even wish for it, for you cannot have it. An elusive thing is time. Just when you think you have it you find you don't have it. Every tick of the clock makes the future the present, the present the past—and the past is gone. We have the word of the psalmist that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore, yet is their strength, labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Few of us are so fortunate as to live fourscore, or eighty years, and even though we should be so fortunate, twice eighty is

one hundred sixty, and six months, or from January 1st, 1917, to June 30th, 1917, would be one one-hundred sixtieth part of our whole life in this world. Should we live to be sixty it would be one one-hundred twentieth. But God in his all-wise providence may cut us off tomorrow, or even six months from now, and then what portion would it be? Now if the good that you have done during the past six months be multiplied by one hundred sixty, or one hundred twenty, what would it amount to? Could you go to God and say you are pleased with it? But consider that the prime of life when man must do nearly, if not all of his life work, is only about half of his life-time; then multiply what you have done during the past six months by only eighty or sixty, and is the record one that you are really proud of?

Now the last half of 1917 still lies before us. It means opportunity. It opens a door to service. It calls to service. Suppose you knew that the last half of 1917 would be the last half year of opportunity open to you, as for some it will be, and it might be you. Would you not take care to make good use of it, trying to do all the good you could do and to bring as many souls to Christ as you possibly could bring? Oh friend, have you stopped to consider it? Let the next six months be so full of good work that the past six months will in part be atoned for. Consecrate your life to the thought that your neighbor, your church and your God have need of you, that the door of opportunity will soon be closed and whatever good you do must be done **RIGHT NOW.**

If you think the Visitor is not full of news, don't blame the editor for it. The editor doesn't know everything that is going on any more than you do, and he needs your help. Will you see that he gets it?

The Visitor extends congratulations to Miss Esther Weiler upon her graduation from Heidelberg University.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

W. F. Close, Supt.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEBT

A great deal has been heard and said about the Sunday School debt, and it might not be amiss to say something about it at this time. About a year ago we decided that the debt which the Sunday School had carried for a long time should be wiped out and at the same time we would pay cash for all of our supplies and other expenses. At that time the debt amounted to \$126.00. By the first of 1917 we had reduced this to \$100.00, then we ordered a large number of supplies for the current year and in addition decided to supply the scholars with a weekly Sunday School paper. All this has been done and each quarter's supplies have been paid for. With the assistance of funds voted for the purpose by several of the classes and by drawing upon our treasury from time to time we are now happy to state that we have paid off a sufficient amount to bring the indebtedness down to \$30.00, and only one-half of the year is gone. It does not need much looking ahead to see that we can soon wipe this out entirely and put our school in position to accomplish some big things in the future.

The Sunday School attendance on June 24th was 143 as against 92 on the corresponding Sunday of one year ago. A gain of 51 or more than 55 per cent., which isn't half bad.

With the last Sunday in June closed the second quarter of the year's work in the Sunday School, and also a half year's study in the Gospel of St. John. The coming half year will bring us work in the Old Testament with studies in Isaiah, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, etc. What an excellent chance to better familiarize ourselves with the Word of God! How can any church member who is really in earnest afford to stay away from Sunday School?

THE ZWINGLIAN LADIES

The Zwinglian Bible Class are very much elated over their victory over the Men's Bible Class. During this contest we received several new members and the attendance was improved.

Some things the Zwinglian Class stands for are, first, an On-Time Sunday School, so we may have more time for class study, which is so necessary; and second, personal evangelism, which is also very much needed in our class.

We are not going to wait until fall, but are going to begin now to make personal visits on members of our class and to prospective members of the Sunday School.

The recent contest which was held between the Men's Bible Class and our Class has not been mentioned by the Men's Class. They must have lost. We are looking anxiously forward to the time when we shall be entertained by the men.

Mrs. Hessert, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Weiler have been on the sick list, but we are glad to again have these members with us.

Mrs. Rose Certia entertained the ladies of the Zwinglian Bible Class on Tuesday, June 26th, in the parlors of the church. These meetings are always a source of much pleasure and help.

TRUE BIBLE CLASS

The June meeting was held at the home of Mae Seibold.

Esther Bitner spent her vacation at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., visiting her brother, Robert.

Three dollars has been pledged by our Class toward payment for the furnace. If other classes follow suit the debt will soon be paid.

We are planning to have a social in the near future.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

(Continued from Page 5.)

The interest in our Sunday School does not seem to lag even though it is summer.

Do not forget the Good Citizenship Picnic on the "Fourth of July." Get into the parade and go along to the park. Our school is interested in making the picnic a success and we hope everyone that can will attend.

Vacation time is at hand and many of our scholars will be going away. We hope you will attend Sunday School wherever you may be. Visit some other schools and get ideas that we can use and work out in our own school.

Have you noticed the size of our offerings each Sunday? They often average five cents for each person present. When you consider that ours is a school made up largely of families—father, mother and children—all in Sunday School, and then in the church audience where they again contribute to the church expenses as well as to all other church activities, you can readily realize that this is an excellent record and accounts for our having been able to accomplish so much.

The Altruist Class furnished the flowers for the Church service Sunday, June 16th. These flowers were sent to Mr. Gavin and Mrs. Henderson. The committee in charge of the decorations appreciate this kind act and will gladly receive flowers from anyone.

PROGREDA ECHOES

The May business meeting of the Progreda Class was held at the home of Mrs. William Benninghoff on the evening of May 28th. Owing to an exceptional amount of business the evening sped away allowing only time for a very short social session, which was enjoyed by all. The June meeting will be held at the home of Miss Mildred Wertman and Mrs. Clarence Aiken on Columbia avenue.

We are glad to report that Miss Loretta Gooley, who has been quite ill, is able to be about again.

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C. E. TOPICS FOR JULY

July 1. Little Things That Make
or Mar. Songs of Sol. 2: 15; Prov.
25: 11. Helen Weikert.

July 8. Tried and Proved. (A promise meeting.) Heb. 6: 9-20. Helen Trish.

July 15. God Our Helper. Ps. 121:
1-8. Clarence Aiken.

July 22. Applying the Golden Rule to Life. Matt. 7: 7-12. Elsie Weikert.

July 29. Evangelistic, Educational, Medical and Industrial Work in Foreign Missions. Isa. 61: 1-3. Hazel Gooley.

Mrs. Ray Deahl and Mrs. E. Baumgartner were hostesses at the June business meeting held at the home of Mrs. Deahl on Delaware avenue. Alma Ruck and Agnes Reilly were appointed as delegates to the C. E. convention held at Hammond, Ind., during the last week in June.

It was planned to have a C. E. picnic in August.

There will be no meetings of the Junior C. E. Society during the months of July and August. The work has been carried on splendidly during all of the winter and will be resumed in September with the foundation laid for even greater work.

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